



Tina Kotek, Governor



Fact Sheet

May 10, 2023

Oregon lifts or changes pandemic policies, as federal public health emergency ends

The federal COVID-19 public health emergency ends May 11. At that time a number of nationwide policies put in place three years ago to help the country weather the pandemic will change or end. This fact sheet summarizes the highlights of those changes, along with changes in Oregon's COVID-19 response measures.

Vaccination requirements

- Workers and volunteers in Oregon health care settings will no longer be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19, effective May 11.
- As of Saturday, June 17, teachers, school staff and volunteers in Oregon's private and public education settings will no longer be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

What to do if you are sick

- A five-day period of isolation for those infected with COVID-19 will no longer be recommended for Oregon's general population. Instead, OHA recommends people infected with COVID-19 stay home until they are fever-free for 24 hours with improving symptoms, avoid contact with people at high risk of severe illness and consider masking for 10 days.

COVID-19 in schools

- As with the general population, OHA recommends people in K-12 schools infected with COVID-19 stay home until they are fever-free for 24 hours with improving symptoms, avoid contact with people at high risk of severe illness and consider masking for 10 days.
- Weekly opt-in "screening" testing for K-12 students and staff without COVID-19 symptoms will end July 31.

Access to COVID-19 vaccines, testing and treatment

- Initially, COVID-19 vaccines and boosters will remain free for everyone after May 11. This is because vaccine access, cost and distribution are determined by the supply of vaccines already purchased by the federal government. As long as the government’s supply of vaccines lasts, COVID-19 vaccines will remain free, regardless of insurance coverage.
- After the federal vaccine supply runs out, COVID-19 vaccines and boosters will continue to be available and free for most people with private and public insurance, and private health insurers in Oregon will continue to cover COVID-19 vaccines administered by any provider. Contact your health care provider about where you can get vaccinated.
- The Oregon Legislature is considering a funding request that would keep COVID-19 vaccines free for everyone in Oregon after the federal supply of COVID-19 vaccines runs out, regardless of insurance status.
- Youth under 18 who are uninsured can always be vaccinated at no cost through the CDC’s [Vaccines for Children Program](#).
- Costs for COVID-19 testing will no longer be widely covered. Coverage will vary by insurer, including private and public insurers.
- COVID-19 pharmaceutical treatments purchased by the federal government, such as Paxlovid, will continue to be free to everyone, regardless of insurance coverage. Coverage for COVID-19 treatments not purchased by the federal government may require a copay and will vary by insurer.
- People without insurance may continue to find low- and no-cost COVID-19 vaccine, testing and treatment options at community health centers. Search for those services [here](#).

Oregon Health Plan (OHP/Medicaid) coverage and benefits

- The federal program that increased some OHP benefits and expanded eligibility for people to qualify for OHP will end. All OHP members will undergo a renewal process to determine if they are still eligible. More information about the changes for OHP membership can be found [here](#).
- People in Oregon who are not citizens will continue to have a “reasonable opportunity period” to verify their immigration status so they can enroll in OHP. As of May 11 that period will be extended from 90 days to 180 days.
- OHP providers must continue to offer access to telehealth services.

Access to other benefits

- Parents will no longer be able to work as paid caregivers for their own minor children. The Oregon Legislature is considering a paid parent caregiver program that would go into effect no earlier than July 1, 2024.
- Extra emergency food benefits provided to people enrolled in Oregon’s SNAP food assistance program have ended.

- [Pandemic-EBT](#), a temporary COVID-19 response program providing additional food benefits for children whose access to food through school programs may have been limited by COVID-19, will end after May.
- The federal program that expanded eligibility for college students to receive SNAP food benefits is ending.
- [SNAP time limits](#) will resume in eight counties for people ages 18 to 49 who don't have a child under 18 on their SNAP case. People must begin meeting SNAP work requirements July 1.

OHA data reporting

- OHA will monitor and report COVID-19 activity in Oregon based on virus transmission at the community level, monitoring for hospitalizations and deaths rather than case numbers.
- OHA will continue to maintain up-to-date COVID-19 data dashboards for Oregon's wastewater surveillance program, test positivity rates, variant monitoring, hospitalization rates and capacity, death counts, and emergency room and vaccination trends. Case and county data dashboards will be archived.
- OHA will no longer require reporting of positive COVID-19 test results to local public health authorities.

Health coverage, supports

- Extended health coverage, including services and supports for people with disabilities and older adults, and extra food benefits that were provided during federal emergency are ending. Continuous coverage for Medicaid also is ending. Oregon began a "redetermination" process April 1 to help people renew their OHP membership and other Medicaid benefits, to keep coverage. We are encouraging members to keep mailing addresses, phone numbers and email addresses current to ensure they receive information about their benefits in the coming months. More information about the renewals process and options for updating contact information are [here](#). Those with questions can reach out to the ONE Customer Service Center at 800-699-9075 (TTY 711) from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Pacific Time, Monday through Friday, or [visit an office](#) in their community.

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